

Fuliiru language

Fuliiru (Furiiru, Kifuliiru, Fulero) is a Great Lakes Bantu language spoken by the Fuliiru people (*Bafuliiru*), also known as the *Fuliru* or *Fulero*, who live north and west of the town of Uvira in Uvira Territory, South Kivu province in the far eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is closely related to Kinyindu.^[5]

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Phonology

Consonants

The table below gives the consonant set of Fuliiru.^{[5][6]}

Fuliiru	
Native to	Uganda and Democratic Republic of the Congo
Ethnicity	Fuliiru
Native speakers	400,000 (2012) ^[1]
Language family	<div>Niger–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Atlantic–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Volta-Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Benue–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bantoid<ul style="list-style-type: none">Southern Bantoid<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bantu<ul style="list-style-type: none">Northeast Bantu<ul style="list-style-type: none">Great Lakes Bantu<ul style="list-style-type: none">Shi-Havu<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fuliiru</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Either: <div><div>f1r – Fuliiru</div><div>job – Joba (Vira)</div></div>
Glottolog	<div>fuli1240 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/fuli1240)<div>Fuliiru^[2]</div></div> <div><div>joba1238 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/joba1238)<div>Joba^[3]</div></div></div>
Guthrie code	JD.63, 631 ^[4]

		<u>Labial</u>	<u>Labiodental</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Post-alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Laryngeal</u>
<u>Plosive</u>	<u>voiceless</u>	<u>p</u>		<u>t</u>			<u>k</u>	
	<u>voiced</u>			<u>d</u>			<u>g</u>	
<u>Fricative</u>	<u>voiceless</u>		<u>f</u>	<u>s</u>	<u>ʃ</u>			<u>h</u>
	<u>voiced</u>		<u>v</u>	<u>z</u>	<u>ʒ</u>			
<u>Prenasalized plosive</u>		mb		nd			ŋg	
<u>Nasal</u>		<u>m</u>		<u>n</u>		<u>ɲ</u>		
<u>Liquid</u>				<u>l/r</u>				
<u>Approximant</u>		<u>β</u>				<u>j</u>	(w) ^[7]	

Several sounds change when preceded by a nasal: voiceless sounds become voiced, and /β/ and /h/ are realized as [b].

The phoneme /n/ assimilates to the place of consonants that follow it: it can be realized as [m], [ɱ], [n], [ɲ], or [ŋ].

The phoneme /l/ is realized as [d] after /n/, as [ɾ] after the front vowels /e/ and /i/, and as [l] elsewhere. The phoneme /r/ is likewise realized as [d] after /n/, but as [ɾ] elsewhere.

Vowels

The table below gives the vowel sounds of Fuliiru.^[5]

	<u>Front</u>	<u>Back</u>
<u>High</u>	<u>i</u>	<u>u</u>
<u>Mid</u>	<u>e</u>	<u>o</u>
<u>Low</u>	<u>a</u>	

All five vowels occur in long and short forms, a distinction that is phonemically distinctive. The quality of a vowel is not affected by its length.

Tone

Like most Bantu languages, Fuliiru is tonal, with a two-way contrast between high and low tones. Morphemes can be underlyingly high (H), low (L), or toneless. Phonetically, high, low, mid, and falling tones can all occur; mid tones are the realization of an underlying LH sequence, and falling tones are the realization of an underlying HL sequence or an utterance-final H tone.

References

1. Fuliiru (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/flr/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
Joba (Vira) (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/job/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Fuliiru" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/fuli1240>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Joba" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/joba1238>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
4. Jouni Filip Maho, 2009. *New Updated Guthrie List Online* (<https://web.archive.org/web/20180203191542/http://goto.glocalnet.net/mahopapers/nuglonline.pdf>)
5. Van Otterloo, Karen (2011). *The Kifuliiru Language: Volume 1*. Dallas, TX: SIL International. ISBN 978-1-55671-261-6.
6. Van Otterloo, Roger (2011). *The Kifuliiru Language: Volume 2*. Dallas, TX: SIL International. ISBN 978-1-55671-270-8.
7. This sound is very rare in Fuliiru, and only occurs after other consonants or as the result of a /u/ becoming a glide.

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